



BOROUGH OF
ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE



ANNUAL REPORT

of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1953

A faint, grayscale background image of a classical building, possibly a temple or a large library, featuring multiple columns and a prominent pediment. The building is set against a light, cloudy sky.

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BOROUGH OF ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE

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Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1953

Borough of Ashton-under-Lyne

1953

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(As at 31st December, 1953)

Chairman : Alderman W. H. Flowers, M.B.E., M.M.
Deputy Chairman : Councillor M. MacCormack.

Members :

His Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor J. Holland, J.P.
Alderman C. Arnold.
Alderman J. Q. Massey, J.P.
Councillor R. G. Fish, C.C.
Councillor James Hall.
Councillor John Holland.
Councillor Herbert Holme.
Councillor T. Kershaw.
Councillor S. A. Sidebottom.
Councillor T. Smith.
Councillor J. Wignall.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Alan S. Simpson, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

SANITARY INSPECTORS

- C. Sykes Handforth, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I., M.Inst., P.C., Chief Sanitary Inspector, Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.
- C. R. Langdon, M.R.San.I., M.Inst., P.C., C.S.I.B., Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector, Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.
- C. Stoddard, M.S.I.A., C.S.I.B., Additional Sanitary Inspector, Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.
- H. Houldsworth, M.S.I.A., C.S.I.B., Additional Sanitary Inspector, Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.
- A. Handley, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I., Additional Sanitary Inspector, Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

CLERKS

- C. Sharples, E. Waddington, A. Hartley, M. J. Tompson, S. J. Kenworthy (Resigned February, 1953), Mary Aspinall (Commenced 20th July, 1953), Sheila Benstead (Commenced 4th August, 1953).

TOWN HALL CHAMBERS,
ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF
ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE

MR. MAYOR, MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my report on the health of the Borough of Ashton-under-Lyne for the year 1953.

The report is in the usual form and comments on the various vital statistics are made in the body of the report. It is pleasant to record that for the first year this century, no cases of diphtheria were notified. The decline of this disease has been an extremely spectacular and substantial one; the maintenance of freedom from the disease is dependent upon parents recognising the value of and securing diphtheria immunisation for their children.

Another encouraging feature in the report is the fact that amongst the notifiable infectious diseases, there were no deaths apart from tuberculosis or pneumonia.

As mentioned by Mr. Handforth, a preliminary housing survey has been made during the year with a view to classifying property in relation to future action under slum clearance programmes.

Finally, in this report I have incorporated certain tables of data relating to the Borough and some of the adjacent area within the County of Lancashire; they are taken from the Census 1951. These data are scattered through a foolscap book of some 200 odd pages and it was felt that the local data was of sufficient importance to be assembled in this report and set out in such a way as to facilitate comparison with neighbouring districts.

The matters cover population, age and sex distribution, marital state, dwelling-houses and their sizes by rooms; their amenities such as piped water supply, cooking facilities, water-closets and fixed baths. Households are also analysed in relation to the size of house they occupy.

I would take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support during the year and to Mr. Handforth, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, for his invaluable assistance.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ALAN S. SIMPSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (acres) 2,981

Population :

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
At Census, 1931	24,242	27,331	51,573
At Census, 1951	21,782	24,708	46,490
Estimated, mid-1953	—	—	45,230

Number of inhabited houses :

At Census, 1931	13,071
Estimated at end of 1953	15,425
General rate for 1953	(in the £) 21s. 6d.
Rateable Value	£270,298
Sum represented by a 1d. rate	£1,075

Social Conditions of the Area

Ashton-under-Lyne is situated in the County of Lancashire, at the foot of the western slopes of the Pennines. Its highest point is 903 feet and its lowest 325 feet above sea level. The greater part of the town is situated between 330 and 340 feet above sea level.

The population is largely industrial and the chief industries are Cotton Spinning, Engineering, Tool Making, Iron and Brass Founding, Brewing and Coal Mining.

VITAL STATISTICS

Civilian population — Registrar-General's estimate, mid-1953,
45,230.

	Total	M.	F.	Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population, mid- 1953—
Live Births—				
Legitimate	660	348	312	
Illegitimate	37	17	20	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
Total	697	365	332	Crude 15.4 Adjusted 15.7

			Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	
Stillbirths—				
Legitimate	16	5	11	
Illegitimate	1	1	—	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
Total	17	6	11	

Deaths	606	285	321	Death-rate per 1,000 estimated civilian popula- tion mid-1953—
				Crude 13.4
				Adjusted 13.0

Maternal Mortality

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	Nil.
Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and stillbirths)	Nil.

Death-rate of infants under one year of age—

All infants per 1,000 live births	24
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.....	23
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.....	54
Male Infantile Mortality Rate	35
Female Infantile Mortality Rate	12

Neo Mortality

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age	13
Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	19

DEATHS FROM SPECIFIC CAUSES

(a) From Measles (all ages)	1
(b) From Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
(c) From Diarrhoea, Gastritis and Enteritis	1
(d) From Diphtheria (all ages)	—
(e) From Cancer (all ages)	105
(f) From Tuberculosis (all forms)	13
Phthisis death-rate	0.24

COMMENTS ON THE VITAL STATISTICS

The mid-year population for 1953 was 45,230 showing little change from 1952.

There were 606 deaths during the year giving a crude death rate of 13.4 per 1,000 of the population, this crude rate has varied little during the last eight years. The comparability factor for the adjustment of the crude death rate is 0.97 which reduces the crude rate to an adjusted one of 13.0 per 1,000. It is preferable to use this latter rate when comparisons are to be made with other areas in so far as it takes into account the age and sex structure of the local population.

Our infantile mortality rate for 1953 was 24 per 1,000 live births: England and Wales had a rate of 26.8, the County Boroughs and Great Towns 30.8 and the Smaller Towns 24.3.

697 live births gave a crude birth rate of 15.41 which a comparability factor of 1.02 raised to an adjusted birth rate of 15.7 per 1,000 population.

Maternal mortality was again nil.

TUBERCULOSIS

Reference to the last column of Table VI will show the trend of the Tuberculosis death-rate over the last 20 years—a fairly considerable decline, almost entirely on the side of pulmonary cases.

The incidence shows no decline; notification rates in respect to tuberculosis are influenced by factors not related to the true incidence of the disease and are a much less reliable statistic than the mortality.

Varying diagnostic criteria of the disease from place to place, more diligent search for cases (M.M. Radiography) and latterly an altered administrative procedure governing the allocation of primary notifications have all tended to render incidence rates of less value than previously.

In fact, should the present interpretation of the meaning of Section 6 of the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations 1952, persist, there will be little point in quoting incidence rates of this disease at all, as they will be unrelated to the area of the authority who are quoting them.

The state of the Tuberculosis Register at the 31st December, 1953, was as follows:—

Respiratory			Non-respiratory			Total respiratory and non-respiratory		
M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
152	95	247	27	31	58	179	126	305

CANCER

The number of deaths occurring where cancer was entered as a cause of death was 105, giving a death rate of 2.32 per 1,000 of the population.

The number of cancer deaths in each of the last 14 years was as follows :—

1940	87	1947	74
1941	70	1948	97
1942	98	1949	99
1943	96	1950	93
1944	86	1951	97
1945	99	1952	117
1946	89	1953	105

The age and sex distribution of the cumulative total cancer deaths, 1951-53, is shown below :—

Cancer Deaths 1951-1953

<i>Age Groups</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
10-14	—	—	—
15-19	—	—	—
20-34	1	3	4
35-39	—	4	4
40-44	4	3	7
45-49	12	7	19
50-54	10	7	17
55-59	20	10	30
60-64	22	25	47
65-69	28	25	53
70-74	33	28	61
75 and over	34	36	70
Total	164	148	312

It might be noted with some satisfaction that in 70 instances out of 312, persons had reached three score years and fifteen, although their death certificate mentioned cancer as having been present, possibly as a direct or contributory cause of death. In some of these cases cancer had undoubtedly been cured and the final cause of death was some other condition.

Table VII analyses cancer deaths by sex and site of the growth.

The heavy male preponderance of lung cancer and to a less degree gastric cancer is at once apparent.

THE PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Table VIII shows the number of each of the infectious diseases notified grouped according to age.

Table IX shows the trend of incidence from 1930 until this year.

For the first year this century Ashton-under-Lyne has had no cases of diphtheria notified.

This is certainly a triumph for immunisation but unless all parents realise its value and adopt the procedure as advised, there is the risk of the disease returning in a virulent form.

The severity of infectious diseases generally has declined in recent years, if we except poliomyelitis.

The percentage of the total notified cases which were removed to hospital for the last 5 years were as follows :—

1949	13
1950	12
1951	7
1952	8
1953	5

Removal of a case of infectious disease to hospital is in the main called for because isolation facilities are not available at home or because of the severity of the disease hospital nursing is required. To-day the percentage of cases removed is about half what it was 5 or 6 years ago and I would suggest that the diminished severity of the disease is largely responsible for this.

Nevertheless there is undoubtedly a fair amount of infectious disease prevalent in the community from time to time of mild type, which passes unrecorded by Health Departments though often it is within the knowledge of individual general practitioners.

Epidemic or seasonal vomiting is probably more prevalent than the recorded outbreaks show and is not a notifiable condition. Epidemic hepatitis is another condition which whilst not notifiable is highly infectious.

The pattern of infectious disease has changed of late years fairly considerably—in general these diseases are milder, but statutory measures of control have not altered and the syndrome of scarlet fever with a rash is still a subject to be dealt with as though it were a distinct clinical entity.

It would appear to be time for the legislative and administrative measures designed to control infectious disease to be reviewed : for the scope and definitions of the term "notifiable disease" to be revised and for the action to be taken in respect to contacts and terminal disinfection to be re-considered.

The 48 cases of infectious diseases which were removed to hospital were sent to the following hospitals :—

Hyde Isolation Hospital	...	...	21
Monsall Isolation Hospital	...	...	12
Westhulme Isolation Hospital	...	...	7
Astley Hospital	...	...	1
Ashton General Hospital (Lake Section)			6
Ladywell Hospital	...	...	1
			—
			48
			—

VENEREAL DISEASE

The following shows the work carried out at the Venereal Diseases Clinic at the Ashton-under-Lyne General Hospital and the numbers since 1948.

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Patients under treatment at Jan 1st	150	125	207	205	207	159
New cases admitted during the year	170	208	168	150	125	108
Total attendance	2976	3951	3378	2268	1268	861
Patients receiving treatment at the end of the year	125	207	205	207	159	95
Pathological examinations for V.D. Patients	549	1090	1365	519	435	324

Of the 108 new cases admitted during the year, 60 were Ashton resident. There were 83 cases found not to be V.D.

TABLE I
VITAL STATISTICS (Registrar-General)

Ashton-u-Lyne Municipal Borough Population Mid- Year 1953 45,230	Live births			Deaths (all causes)			Stillbirths			Maternal Mortality			Infant Mortality			Neo-natal		
	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 popn	Rate per 1,000 popn	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 popn	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	
Year 1953	697	15.41	6.66	13.4	17	24	Nil	Nil	Nil	27	42	25	13	19	—	—	—	
Year 1952	645	14.1	643	14.1	19	29	Nil	Nil	Nil	30	41	16	—	—	39	—	—	
Year 1951	731	15.9	700	15.2	24	32	Nil	Nil	Nil	25	34	13	—	—	22	—	—	
Year 1950	727	15.4	693	14.7	17	23	Nil	Nil	Nil	38	46	—	—	—	18	—	—	
1949	832	17.6	738	15.6	24	28	Nil	Nil	Nil	36	41	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1948	858	18.5	650	14.0	12	13	Nil	Nil	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1948-1952	...	—	16.3	14.7	—	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Average 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

• Adjusted

{ live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.02) = 15.7 per 1,000,
 { death rate (comparability factor, 0.97) = 13.0 per 1,000.

TABLE II

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE and INFANTILE MORTALITY
1930-1953

YEAR COL. 1	Popu- lation Mid- Year Esti- mate COL. 2	No. of Births COL. 3	Crude Birth- Rate COL. 4	No. of Deaths COL. 5	Crude Death Rate COL. 6	No. of Infan- tile Deaths COL. 7	Infan- tile Mort- ality Rate per 1,000 COL. 8	AVERAGE 5 YEARS		
								Birth Rate COL. 9	Death Rate COL. 10	Infantile Mortality COL. 11
1930	54,750	739	14.2	642	12.4	43	58			
1931	54,840	765	14.7	711	13.7	53	69			
1932	54,040	690	13.5	697	13.3	58	84	13.5	13.2	69.4
1933	50,540	634	12.5	704	13.9	41	64			
1934	51,573	645	12.8	645	12.8	46	71			
1935	50,220	620	12.3	705	14.0	44	66			
1936	49,580	612	12.3	724	14.6	38	62			
1937	48,810	620	12.7	794	16.2	39	62	12.7	14.7	65.0
1938	48,540	645	13.2	688	14.1	50	77			
1939	47,950	630	13.0	719	14.9	57	58			
1940	46,320	657	14.1	793	17.1	52	79			
1941	45,950	669	11.5	696	15.1	49	72			
1942	45,040	687	14.9	632	14.0	27	39	16.0	15.0	54.0
1943	44,190	804	18.0	684	15.3	39	48			
1944	44,310	830	18.7	605	13.6	30	36			
1945	44,270	720	16.2	670	15.1	30	41			
1946	46,480	884	19.0	657	14.1	41	46			
1947	47,160	1,044	21.4	643	12.9	44	43	18.5	14.3	43.0
1948	46,270	858	18.5	650	14.0	36	41			
1949	47,280	832	17.6	738	15.6	38	46			
1950	47,300	727	15.4	693	14.7	25	34			
1951	45,960	731	15.9	700	15.2	30	41			
1952	45,720	645	14.1	643	14.1	27	42			
1953	45,230	697	15.41	606	13.4	17	24			

TABLE III
CAUSES OF DEATH
1953

No.	CAUSE OF DEATH	M.	F.	Total
1	Tuberculosis (Respiratory) ...	8	3	11
2	Tuberculosis (Other) ...	—	2	2
3	Syphilitic Disease ...	3	2	5
4	Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
5	Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal Infections ...	—	—	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—
8	Measles ...	—	1	1
9	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ...	1	—	1
10	Malignant Neoplasm (Stomach) ...	11	5	16
11	Malignant Neoplasm (Lung Bronchus) ...	15	3	18
12	Malignant Neoplasm (Breast) ...	—	11	11
13	Malignant Neoplasm (Uterus) ...	—	9	9
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ...	20	28	48
15	Leukaemia Aleukaemia ...	1	2	3
16	Diabetes ...	—	3	3
17	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	27	60	87
18	Coronary Disease, Angina ...	35	19	54
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	6	11	17
20	Other Heart Disease ...	49	79	128
21	Other Circulatory Diseases ...	6	9	15
22	Influenza ...	1	3	4
23	Pneumonia ...	6	7	13
24	Bronchitis ...	36	26	62
25	Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	5	1	6
26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	5	2	7
27	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	—	1	1
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	1	3	4
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	5	—	5
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion ...	—	—	—
31	Congenital Malformations ...	2	—	2
32	Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases ...	29	23	52
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	4	1	5
34	All Other Accidents ...	4	7	11
35	Suicide ...	4	—	4
36	Homicide and Operations of War ...	1	—	1
	Total ...	285	321	606

TABLE IV
INFANT DEATHS
CAUSE, SEX AND AGE GROUPS

Cause of Death	Age at Death										Totals	
	Under 1 Day		1 Day & less than 7 Days		1 Week & less than 4 Weeks		4 Weeks & less than 6 months		6 months & less than 12 months			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System												
Tuberculosis (other forms)												
Diphtheria												
Whooping Cough												
Meningococcal Infections												
Acute Poliomyelitis												
Measles												
Influenza												
Pneumonia							1				1	1
Bronchitis										1		1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System												
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea												
Congenital Malformations					1	1			1		2	1
Birth Injuries	3		1								4	
Postnatal Asphyxia and Atelectasis			1	2		1					3	1
Infection of the newborn												
Other Diseases peculiar to Early Infancy (inc. Prems.).					1						1	1
All Other Causes	1							1	1		2	1
Total All Causes	4	1	5		3		1	2	1	13	4	17

TABLE V
TUBERCULOSIS — NEW CASES AND DEATHS

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0—1	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	...	2	3	2	1	—	—	1
5—10	...	2	3	—	2	—	—	—
10—15	...	3	2	1	—	—	—	—
15—20	...	3	4	1	1	—	1	—
20—25	...	7	4	—	2	—	—	—
25—35	...	7	2	1	1	1	2	—
35—45	...	1	1	1	—	1	—	—
45—55	...	5	—	—	—	3	—	—
55—65	...	2	2	1	—	2	—	—
65 and upwards	...	1	1	—	1	1	—	1
TOTALS...	...	33	22	7	8	8	3	2
		55		15		11		2
			70			13		
Case Rate per 1,000	1.22		0.33		Death Rate per 1,000	0.24		0.04
		1.55					0.29	

TABLE VI
TUBERCULOSIS

INCIDENCE AND DEATH-RATES ANNUALLY 1934-1953

YEAR	INCIDENCE			DEATHS		
	Case	Rate per 1,000		Death		Rate per 1,000
		Pulm'ry	Non-Pulm'ry	Pulm'ry	Non-Pulm'ry	
1934	0.83	0.43	1.26	0.57	0.10	0.67
1935	0.14	0.31	1.45	0.50	0.05	0.55
1936	0.83	0.59	1.42	0.60	0.13	0.73
1937	0.19	0.55	1.74	0.94	0.10	1.04
1938	0.91	0.45	1.36	0.66	0.08	0.74
1939	0.81	0.38	1.19	0.71	0.06	0.77
1940	1.10	0.48	1.58	0.52	0.19	0.71
1941	1.10	0.32	1.42	0.70	0.13	0.83
1942	1.10	0.60	1.70	0.55	0.12	0.67
1943	1.16	0.59	1.75	0.52	0.04	0.56
1944	1.17	0.27	1.44	0.45	0.09	0.54
1945	1.27	0.40	1.67	0.68	0.18	0.86
1946	1.22	0.25	1.47	0.47	0.05	0.52
1947	1.02	0.42	1.44	0.53	0.19	0.72
1948	1.03	0.27	1.30	0.54	0.13	0.67
1949	1.35	0.19	1.54	0.67	0.14	0.81
1950	0.90	0.20	1.10	0.49	0.08	0.57
1951	1.15	0.24	1.39	0.35	0.09	0.44
1952	1.62	0.37	1.99	0.33	0.04	0.37
1953	1.22	0.33	1.55	0.24	0.04	0.29
Average for 20 years	1.00	0.38	1.49	0.55	0.10	0.65
Average for first 5-year period 1934-1938	0.58	0.47	1.45	0.65	0.09	0.74
Average for last 5-year period 1949-1953	1.25	0.27	1.51	0.42	0.08	0.50

TABLE VII
CANCER DEATHS
(1951 & 1952) 1953

ACCORDING TO SITE AND SEX

No. List	Sites	Number of Registered Cancer Deaths			
		1951 & 1952		1953	
		M.	F.	M.	F.
10	Stomach	27	19	11	5
11	Lung and Bronchus	31	3	15	3
12	Breast	—	10	—	11
13	Uterus	—	9	—	9
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	60	52	20	28
15	Leukaemia, etc.	2	1	1	2
	TOTAL	120	94	47	58

TABLE VIII

NOTIFICATIONS AND AGE GROUP ANALYSIS
INFECTIOUS DISEASES

DISEASES	Total Cases at all Ages	Under 1										65 and Over										Total Deaths		
		1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	65 and Over	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6
Smallpox
Diphtheria
Erysipelas	1
Scarlet Fever	31
Puerperal Pyrexia	2
Typhoid Fever
Paratyphoid Fever
Pneumonia	6
Ophthalmia Neonatorum
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis
Poliomyelitis, Paralytic	1
Encephalitis Lethargica
Dysentery
Measles	3
Whooping Cough	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis
Food Poisoning
Meningococcal Infection	1
Totals	48
	908	44	86	117	151	145	238	18	18	31	13	37	10	16										

TABLE IX
INFECTIOUS DISEASES
ANNUAL NOTIFICATIONS — 1930–1953

Year		Notifications																		Food Poisoning		Totals	
		Smallpox	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough	Puerperal Pyrexia	Enteric Fever	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Acute Primary Pneumonia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Meningo-coccal Infection	Acute Poliomyelitis	Encephalitis Lethargica	Dysentery						
1930	99	36	25	359			2	3	56	21	61	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	666	
1931	1	13	16	201			4	—	52	38	89	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	421	
1932	—	22	18	163			4	1	42	20	99	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	371	
1933	—	16	22	73			5	—	57	24	136	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	337	
1934	—	38	19	93			4	—	42	22	100	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	323	
1935	—	63	31	69			10	—	57	16	78	9	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	336	
1936	—	127	37	179			16	1	40	34	85	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	524	
1937	—	243	25	233			22	1	60	30	97	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	724	
1938	—	225	29	116			37	2	44	22	66	5	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	554	
1939	—	84	17	59			28	—	39	18	67	5	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	324	
1940	—	59	12	42	686	129	27	1	51	22	95	4	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1149	
1941	—	38	12	48	260	128	23	7	51	14	86	5	16	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	692	
1942	—	42	20	86	521	39	28	1	49	27	85	8	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	914	
1943	—	61	21	98	355	197	19	—	43	22	126	10	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	956	
1944	—	60	17	63	419	69	13	1	48	15	31	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	742	
1945	—	64	6	41	233	34	7	—	56	18	38	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	501	
1946	—	25	12	27	136	175	8	1	57	11	58	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	516	
1947	—	11	12	26	696	48	7	1	48	20	31	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	902	
1948	—	19	14	131	439	236	2	2	48	12	44	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	952	
1949	—	4	15	265	461	54	3	—	45	19	55	1	2	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	930	
1950	—	6	5	103	281	223	1	—	43	12	38	—	1	8	—	—	10	3	—	—	—	734	
1951	—	3	4	102	855	88	1	—	53	11	51	—	3	1	—	—	4	3	—	—	—	1179	
1952	—	1	6	116	422	139	—	2	74	17	25	—	1	1	—	—	6	3	—	—	—	813	
1953	—	—	12	91	427	255	2	—	55	15	44	—	1	1	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	908	

General Provision of Health Services in the Area

I.—SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE MANCHESTER REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD

A. General Hospital

The Ashton-under-Lyne General Hospital, Lake Section and Infirmary Section, is controlled and administered by the Manchester Regional Hospital Board acting through their Ashton, Hyde and Glossop Hospital Management Committee.

The hospital admits medical and surgical cases; there is an out-patient department at the Infirmary and the Lake Section provides through its Maternity Department, maternity beds and an ante-natal clinic.

B. Infectious Diseases

The area is served by a number of Infectious Diseases Hospitals; Hyde, Monsall and Westhulme (Oldham) taking the majority of our cases in that order of frequency.

SMALLPOX. The Ainsworth Smallpox Hospital, Bury, would take any cases of smallpox.

C. Tuberculosis Services

The Chest Clinic, Lees Street, is now administered by the Regional Hospital Board, though certain aspects of this work, more particularly the domiciliary visiting of cases and contacts, come within the domain of the Local Health Authority's Medical Officer (the Divisional Medical Officer for Health Division No. 17).

The times for attendance at the Clinic are as follows :—

Tuesdays	...	...	...	2-0 p.m.
	(1st Tuesday in month)	...	...	6-0 p.m.
Wednesdays	...	...	...	10-0 a.m.
	(1st Wednesday in month)	...	...	6-0 p.m.
Fridays	...	...	...	10-0 a.m.

A clinic for children only is held Friday afternoons from 2-0 to 4-0 p.m.

II.—SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

The Lancashire County Council are the Local Health Authority for the Ashton-under-Lyne area, and they have set up a Divisional Scheme for Administration covering the whole of the County of Lancashire.

Ashton-under-Lyne is one of the six constituent districts in Health Division No. 17, which is comprised as follows :—

Ashton-under-Lyne Borough.
Mossley Borough.
Audenshaw Urban District.
Denton Urban District.
Droylsden Urban District.
Limehurst (Part) Rural District
(except Parish of Woodhouses).

The services which are provided by the Lancashire County Council, with effect from July 5th, 1948, are as follows :—

1. Maternity and Child Welfare.
2. School Medical Service.
3. Midwifery.
4. Health Visiting.
5. Home Nursing.
6. Vaccination and Immunisation.
7. Ambulance Service.
8. Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care.
9. Domestic Help.
10. Mental Health.
11. Health Education and Propaganda.

The above services are administered by the Lancashire County Council acting through their Divisional Health Committee No. 17.

A brief résumé of the above services as available to residents in Ashton-under-Lyne follows, the items being listed in the order as shown above :—

1. Maternity and Child Welfare

Child Welfare Centres held at—	Clinic 5 : Scotland Street, Clinic 6 : Richmond House, Clinic 7 : Ormonde Street,	Tuesdays, 2 p.m. Thursdays, 2 p.m. Wednesdays, 2 p.m.
--------------------------------	---	--

	Clinic 8 : Hurst Nook,	Mondays, 9.30 a.m. to 12.0 noon.
Ante-Natal Clinics	Clinic 5 : Scotland Street, Clinic 6 : Richmond House,	Alternate Fridays, 2 p.m.
Speech Therapy Clinics	Clinic 6 : Richmond House, Richmond Street,	Mondays, a.m. and p.m.
		Tuesdays, a.m. and p.m.
Ultra Violet Ray Clinics	Clinic 6 : Richmond House, Richmond Street,	Thursdays, a.m. only.
		Tuesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m.

2. School Medical Service

The School Clinic at Water Street is open throughout the week and provides the following Clinics :—

Minor Ailments.
Ophthalmic.
Orthopaedic.
Aural.
Dental.

3. Midwives

The following are the names and addresses of the Midwives practising in Ashton as at 31st December, 1953 :—

Mrs. B. J. EGERTON,	57, Ladbroke Road.	Tel. No. ASHton 2063.
Mrs. J. GRIFFITHS,	1, Crowthorn Road.	Tel. No. ASHton 2107.
Mrs. A. HARROP,	5, Ney Street, Waterloo.	Tel. No. ASHton 2033.
Mrs. S. A. SIDEBOTTOM,	16, Hurst Hall Drive.	Tel. No. ASHton 2615.
Mrs. I. MALLINSON,	4, Crowhill Road.	Tel. No. ASHton 2741.

4. Health Visitors

Office : St. Michael's Square, Ashton-under-Lyne.

Nurse Chamberlain.
Nurse Weir.
Nurse Cleary.
Nurse Edwards.
Nurse Malone.
Nurse Wrigley.
Nurse Beaumont.
Nurse Smith.

Extract from 1951 Census

Table

- L Housing of Private Households.
- 2 Population 1921-1951 and Intercensal variations.
- 3 Acreage, Private Households and Dwellings.
- 10 Dwellings, Rooms and Households.
- 11 Private Households by Size, Rooms Occupied and Density of Occupation in (a) All dwellings.
(b) Shared dwellings.
- 12 Private Households by Density of Occupation
(Persons per room).
- 14 Private Households according to possession of certain Household Arrangements.
- 22 Ages (quinary) and Marital Condition.
- 27 Social Class Distribution of Occupied and Retired Males Aged 15 and over.

TABLE L—HOUSING OF PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS

		Structurally separate dwellings				Households				Density of occupation (persons per room)						
		Occupied & vacant		Occupied		Per cent increase in number of dwellings		Per cent increase in number of households		Per cent of population at density		Per cent of households at density				
Administrative Area	Per cent increase or decrease in 1931-1951	Number of dwellings in 1931	Rooms per dwelling	Per cent rooms per dwelling	1931-1951	1931-1951	Rooms per household	Per cent households per household	1951	1931	1951	1931	Over 1 person per room	Over 1½ persons per room	Over 2 persons per room	
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)	(k)	(l)	(m)	(n)	(o)	
Ashton-under-Lyne M.B.	15,314	12.1	0.88	4.27	4.25	2.78	15,245	11.8	2.2	4.22	4.4	2.98	3.63	13.3	0.71	
Audenshaw U.D.	...	4,187	86.5	0.84	4.59	4.66	0.61	4,151	80.6	1.6	4.54	1.6	3.00	3.62	9.6	0.66
Denton U.D.	...	8,343	75.1	0.78	4.39	4.34	1.48	8,329	75.1	2.5	4.33	3.2	3.07	3.59	9.8	0.71
Droylsden U.D.	...	8,197	153.2	0.66	4.31	4.39	0.63	8,189	145.4	2.2	4.26	2.4	3.22	3.92	7.1	0.76
Mossley M.B.	...	3,588	4.2	0.78	3.98	4.23	5.07	3,534	3.8	0.9	3.95	5.7	2.93	3.50	13.1	0.74
																2.2
																9.9
																0.9
																5.0

TABLE 2. POPULATION 1921-1951 AND INTERCENSAL VARIATIONS

Administrative Area	POPULATION						Increase or Decrease (-)				Net 1931 population of Areas added or deducted (-) in inter-censal period 1931-1951			
	1921		1931		1951		1921-1931		1931-1951					
	Persons	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Per cent	Total	Per cent				
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)	(k)	(n)			
Ashton-under-Lyne M.B.	52,041	52,175	24,623	27,552	46,794	21,912	24,882	0.3	-5,381	-10.3	1.3	-11.6	602	
Audenshaw U.D.	...	7,876	3,969	4,492	12,661	6,067	6,594	7.4	4,200	49.6	8.9	40.7	—	
Denton U.D.	...	17,620	17,384	8,196	9,188	25,603	12,087	13,516	-1.3	8,219	47.3	8.8	38.5	0
Droylsden U.D.	...	13,968	13,340	6,380	6,960	26,363	12,616	13,747	-4.5	13,023	97.6	23.9	73.7	66
Mossley M.B.	...	12,703	12,042	5,650	6,392	10,413	4,948	5,465	-5.2	-1,629	-13.5	-0.1	-13.4	—

(Census 1951)
TABLE 3. ACREAGE, PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS AND DWELLINGS

Administrative Area (a)	Acreage (Land and Inland Water)	PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS AND DWELLINGS 1951						
		Persons per Acre 1951	Private Households	Population in Private Households		Rooms Occupied	Persons per Room	Percentage of persons at more than 2 per Room
				(c)	(d)			
Ashton-under-Lyne M.B.	2,981	15.7	15,245	45,416	15,051	64,310	0.71	1.2
Audenshaw U.D.	1,241	10.2	4,151	12,467	4,116	18,872	0.66	0.5
Denton U.D.	...	...	2,593	9.9	8,329	25,579	8,224	36,077
Droylsden U.D...	...	...	1,010	26.1	8,189	26,356	8,097	34,923
Mossley M.B.	3,624	2.9	3,534	10,360	3,513	13,978	0.74	2.2

(Census 1951)

TABLE 10. DWELLINGS, ROOMS AND HOUSEHOLDS

(a)	STRUCTURALLY SEPARATE DWELLINGS										NUMBER OF ROOMS							
	1 Room		2 Rooms		3 Rooms		4 Rooms		5 Rooms		6 Rooms		7 Rooms		8 or 9 Rooms		10 or more Rooms	
	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)	(k)	(l)	(m)	(n)	(o)	(p)	(q)	(r)	
Ashton-under-Lyne M.B.																		
Dwellings Occupied by:																		
1 Private Household(s)	...	99	320	1,542	8,353	3,214	1,135	150	89	16	14,918	63,600	8	—	63,608			
2 " "	...	—	—	9	35	26	20	8	6	1	105	532	1	—	533			
3 or more Private Households	...	—	—	—	4	5	5	8	4	2	28	178	1	2	181			
Total Dwellings occupied	99	320	1,551	8,392	3,245	1,163	163	99	19	19	15,051	64,310	10	2	64,322			
Dwellings wholly vacant	—	—	19	75	19	12	—	1	—	129	—	538	—	—	538			
Dwellings — furnished	1	1	10	91	20	8	—	3	—	134	—	—	—	—	569			
Dwellings — others	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	569
Total Dwellings occupied and vacant	100	324	1,580	8,558	3,284	1,183	163	103	19	19	15,314	64,310	548	571	65,429			
Number of Private Households therein	99	320	1,560	8,435	3,283	1,210	183	122	33	33	15,245	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Miscellaneous habitations and institutions holding non-private households											33							

N.B.—The above section includes 6 caravans comprising 9 rooms occupied by 6 households.

TABLE 11.—PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS BY SIZE, ROOMS OCCUPIED AND DENSITY OF OCCUPATION in (a) All dwellings
(b) Shared dwellings

(a) Ashton-under-Lyne M.B.		Number of HOUSEHOLDS occupying the following number of ROOMS										Average number of persons per room (n)	
		1 Room		2 Rooms		3 Rooms		4 Rooms		5 Rooms		6 Rooms	
		(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)	(k)	(l)	(m)
(a) Households in all Dwellings													
Total Households	211	459	1,582	8,379	3,223	1,136	150	89	16	15,245	45,416	64,274	0.71
Total Persons	411	1,011	4,197	23,278	11,361	4,138	607	339	74	—	—	—	—
Rooms Occupied	211	918	4,746	33,516	16,115	6,816	1,050	728	174	—	—	—	—
Distribution per 1,000 households by rooms occupied 1951	1.4	30	104	549	211	75	10	6	1	1,000	—	—	—
(b) Households in Shared Dwellings													
Total Households	112	139	40	26	9	1	1	—	—	329	825	681	1.21
Total Persons	232	342	108	102	32	3	4	2	—	—	—	—	—
Rooms Occupied	112	278	120	104	45	6	7	9	—	—	—	—	—
Distribution per 1,000 households by rooms occupied 1951	340	423	122	79	27	3	3	3	—	1,000	—	—	—

(Census 1951)

TABLE 12. PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS BY DENSITY OF OCCUPATION (Persons per room)

Area (a)	Households in all dwellings at successive densities						Population in all households at successive densities						Percentage of persons living at more than 2 per room.		
	Percentages						1931						1951		
	Total (b)	Over 3 (c)	3 and over 2 (d)	2 and over 1½ (e)	1½ and over 1 (f)	1 or less (g)	Total (h)	Over 3 (i)	3 and over 2 (j)	2 and over 1½ (k)	1½ and over 1 (l)	1 or less (m)	(n)	(o)	
Ashton-under-Lyne M.B.	15,245	0.1	0.6	2.5	9.0	87.8	45,416	100	450	2,170	7,221	35,475	1.21	5.20	
Audenshaw U.D.	4,151	—	0.2	0.9	6.4	92.5	12,467	—	60	232	1,462	10,713	0.48	4.42	
Denton U.D.	...	8,329	0.0	0.3	1.9	8.6	89.2	25,579	25	195	961	3,781	20,617	0.86	5.32
Droylsden U.D.	...	8,189	0.1	0.4	2.3	10.2	87.0	26,356	25	246	1,195	4,440	20,450	1.03	7.78
Mossley M.B.	...	3,534	0.1	0.8	4.1	10.4	84.6	10,360	28	200	795	1,738	7,599	2.20	2.83

(Census 1951)

TABLE 14. PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS according to possession of certain HOUSEHOLD ARRANGEMENTS

	Ashton-under-Lyne M.B.		Audenshaw U.D.		Denton U.D.		Droylsden U.D.		Mossley M.B.	
	All households	Households sharing dwellings	All households	Households sharing dwellings	All households	Households sharing dwellings	All households	Households sharing dwellings	All households	Households sharing dwellings
Total number of households	15,245	329	4,151	67	8,329	206	8,189	184	3,534	32
Piped Water										
Households S.	1,166	238	87	43	242	168	203	151	277	24
N	22				1		1		36	1
Percent S. or N	8	72	2	64	3	82	2	82	9	78
Cooking Stove										
Households S.	249	187	46	41	155	144	160	143	17	11
N	389	13	61	1	88	9	74	5	114	3
Per cent S. or N	4	61	3	63	3	74	3	80	4	44
Kitchen Sink										
Households S.	286	210	43	38	177	164	166	149	22	14
N	44	3	3	3	3	2	2	1	8	5
Per cent S. or N	2	65	1	61	2	81	2	82	1	59
Water Closet										
Households S.	681	256	74	43	194	167	176	151	98	14
N	359	2	65	30	30		16	2	2,258	14
Per cent S. or N	7	78	3	64	3	81	2	83	67	88
Fixed Bath										
Households S.	293	163	40	35	111	132	143	130	17	11
N	8,395	136	1,122	13	2,372	53	1,803	33	2,593	20
Per cent S. or N	57	91	28	72	30	90	24	89	74	97
All five arrangements E										
Households	6,224	24	2,935	17	5,750	17	6,188	20	769	—
Per cent	41	7	71	25	69	8	76	11	22	—
Stove E. Sink E.										
Households	14,553	109	4,042	25	8,070	40	7,951	32	3,393	13
Per cent	95	33	97	37	97	19	97	17	96	41
Bath S. or N. other four arrangements E.										
Households	6,896	34	988	6	2,218	19	1,706	8	320	3
Per cent	45	10	24	9	27	9	21	4	9	9
Sink S. or N. Water Closet S. or N.										
Households	315	211	45	41	178	164	167	150	29	18
Per cent	2	64	1	61	2	80	2	82	1	56

Households with Household Arrangements as follows : -

(E - having exclusive use, S - sharing with another household; N - entirely without).

(Census 1951)

TABLE 22. AGES (quinary) and MARITAL CONDITION

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE M.B.

		Total Population		Married only	
		Males	Females	Males	Females
Total	...	21,912	24,882	12,098	12,337
Marital Condition :					
Single	...	8,688	9,447		
Married	...	12,098	12,337	12,098	12,337
Widowed	...	1,045	2,990		
Divorced	...	81	108		
Age last birthday :					
0—4	...	1,938	1,887		
5—9	...	1,599	1,628		
10—14	...	1,338	1,380		
15—19	...	1,203	1,323	4	70
20—24	...	1,316	1,503	368	763
25—29	...	1,710	1,808	1,202	1,461
30—34	...	1,644	1,670	1,359	1,392
35—39	...	1,665	1,762	1,442	1,469
40—44	...	1,688	1,820	1,487	1,494
45—49	...	1,690	1,758	1,506	1,325
50—54	...	1,477	1,804	1,319	1,338
55—59	...	1,281	1,636	1,130	1,072
60—64	...	1,128	1,460	920	816
65—69	...	907	1,321	647	603
70—74	...	730	1,030	457	343
75—79	...	373	679	183	151
80—84	...	174	299	66	38
85—89	...	41	88	8	1
90—94	...	9	23	—	1
95 and over	...	1	3	—	—
Percentage persons... 1931		6.0	7.5	Sexes combined	6.8
over 65 years ... 1951		10.3	13.7		12.3

(Census 1951) TABLE 27. SOCIAL CLASS DISTRIBUTION OF OCCUPIED AND RETIRED MALES AGED 15 AND OVER.

Administrative Area	Total Males (occupied and retired) aged 15 and over	SOCIAL CLASS					Proportions per 1,000 total				
		I	II	III	IV	V	I	II	III	IV	V
Ashton-u-Lyne M.B.	16,560	363	1,906	9,294	2,112	2,885	22	115	561	128	174
Audenshaw U.D. ...	4,610	158	888	2,672	453	439	34	193	580	98	95
Denton U.D. ...	8,923	221	1,310	5,508	839	1,045	25	147	617	94	117
Droylsden U.D. ...	9,298	128	1,011	5,872	1,147	1,140	14	109	631	123	123
Mossley M.B. ...	3,636	38	370	1,923	681	624	10	102	529	187	172

TOWN HALL CHAMBERS,
ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

TO THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL
OF THE BOROUGH OF ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit herewith my Annual Report for the year 1953.

The preliminary housing survey was completed during the year. The houses in the town were divided into categories:—

1. Essentially sound houses which are in good condition.
2. Houses which in our opinion should be the subject of clearance area procedure.
3. Those which, although at present in need of some repair, could be made fit.
4. Houses which are structurally sound but are lacking up-to-date amenities.

A detailed inspection of those properties which are likely to be the subject of clearance area procedure was proceeding at the end of the year.

From information obtained from the preliminary survey it is obvious that Housing is going to be one of the chief activities in the Department for some years to come and it is expected that as soon as the Housing Repairs and Rents Bill becomes law, active steps will be taken to proceed with the first part of the slum clearance programme.

During the year the public conveniences in Mossley Road were in course of erection and when completed, they will meet the needs of this area. They are up-to-date and free washing facilities have been provided. It is sincerely hoped that the buildings and fixtures will be used in a proper manner.

During the year there were no changes in the Sanitary Inspectorate and this is reflected in the increase in the work accomplished. One of the Junior Clerks however, left in February and was not replaced until the following July. Owing to ill-health, one of the clerks was absent from duty for a considerable period during the year.

I should like to express my appreciation of the work carried out by the staff and in particular to my Deputy, who has given much valuable assistance during the year. It is obvious, in the near future, the work will call for the full and whole-hearted co-

operation of all its members, if the work is to be accomplished successfully. I feel sure that everyone will give of his or her best.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee I must again express my appreciation of the support and encouragement given to me in the carrying out of my duties during the year.

I ain,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. SYKES HANDFORTH.

Environmental Health Services

Embodying the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector for the Year 1953

Housing Statistics

Number of new Houses erected during the year : -	Houses	Flats
(i) By the Local Authority ...	212	—
" " " " (outside district)	18	16
(ii) By other Local Authorities ...	Nil	Nil
(iii) By other Bodies or Persons ...	11	Nil

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 5060
 (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 9915

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 to 1932	... ... ... ...	15
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	44	
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ... ... ...	Nil.
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	... ... ... ...	792
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—		
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	... ... ... ...	659
3. Action under statutory powers during the year :—		
(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—		
(a) By Owners	...	Nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	Nil.
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	58
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices		
(a) By Owners	...	37
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	Nil.
(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	20
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil.
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil.
4. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding —	
(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	133
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	190
(iii) Number of persons dwelling herein	932
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	51
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	52
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	208
5. Housing Act, 1949 —	
(a) (i) Number of Schemes submitted :	
(a) by private individuals ...	Nil.
(b) by the local authority ...	Nil.
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses affected	Nil.
(b) (i) Number of Schemes approved by Ministry :	Nil.
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses or other buildings affected	Nil.
(iii) Number of additional separate dwellings to be provided under these approved Schemes ...	Nil.
(c) Number of additional separate dwellings actually completed during the year	Nil.
(d) Any other action taken under the Act (give brief particulars)	Nil.

Sanitary Improvements

The principal sanitary improvement during the year was the continued progress in converting waste-water closets into fresh-water closets. This is the seventh year the scheme has been in operation and the number dealt with during 1953 (136) was the highest recorded during that period and since 1947, 620 waste-water closets have been abolished.

Progress is, of course, not spectacular, but there has been a continued increase each year (except during 1952). The figure of 136 during 1953 compares with 32 in 1947 and 43 in 1948.

A commencement was made with the erection of public conveniences in Mossley Road. The provision of improved facilities at Guide Bridge was under consideration, the Council in this matter working in close co-operation with the Audenshaw Urban District Council.

Smoke Abatement

There has been a substantial increase during the year in the number of half-hourly smoke observations, 167 as compared with 36 in 1952. The Council has provided four lead peroxide instruments and four soot deposit gauges for estimating atmospheric pollution. It is regretted that the tables in connection with this matter are not available.

During the year it was decided to join the scheme operated by the Manchester and District Regional Smoke Abatement Committee, but at the end of the year, the necessary arrangements had not been completed. It is hoped, however, that matters will be sufficiently advanced for the schedule to be included in next year's report.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

1.—MILK SUPPLY

The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

No. of registered distributors operating from :—

(a) Dairies in the district	...	...	...	...	3
(b) Dairy farms in the district	...	...	...	...	15
(c) Shops in the district other than dairies	...	...	...	...	242
(d) Premises outside the district	...	...	...	...	7

The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

No. of dealer's licences (including supplementary licences) issued by the local authority during 1953, in respect of :—

"Tuberculin Tested" Milk	...	...	...	...	21
"Accredited" Milk	...	...	...	...	1

The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949

No. of licences issued in respect of "Heat Treated" Milk :—

Pasteurising plants	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sterilising plants	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

Retail distributors—

(a) "Pasteurised" Milk	...	...	...	...	85
(b) "Sterilised" Milk	...	...	...	...	247

Action taken by this Department in relation to samples taken in the district :

Raw Milk

		Number of samples	Number negative	Number positive	
(1) Tuberculosis	Biological tests	...	56	54	1 (1 examination declared void)
(2) Methylene Blue	Test	...	59	54	5

		Number of samples	Number satisfactory	Number unsatisfactory
(2) Methylene Blue	Test	...	59	54

“Heat Treated” Milk

“Pasteurised”

(1) Phosphatase Test	116	116	—
(2) Methylene Blue Test ...	116	114	2
Tuberculosis ...	1	1	—

“Sterilised”

(3) Turbidity Test ...	3	3	—
(4) Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—

Result of Ministry investigations by the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries within the district during the year, arising from notifications of tuberculous milk made by any local authority.

Number of veterinary inspections ...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of cases where animals seized under Tuberculosis Order, 1938 ...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of animals seized ...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of cases reported negative where animals had been sold prior to investigation ...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Number of cases reported negative where no animals seized	...	...	...	...	Nil.

During the year two notices were served under Article 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949, requiring treatment of milk before disposal for human consumption. Details of this action were forwarded to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Ministry of Food and the Lancashire County Council. In both cases the milk was heat-treated before being sold to the public. Compensation was paid to the traders and the usual repayment of part of the expenditure was received from the Ministry.

Ice-Cream

63 samples of ice cream were forwarded for examination and were reported upon as follows:—

Grade 1 ...	...	...	...	42
Grade 2 ...	...	...	...	15
Grade 3 ...	...	...	...	4
Grade 4 ...	...	...	...	2

There has been a slight increase in the number of samples forwarded to the Public Health Laboratories for examination.

It will be noted there was a substantial increase in the inspections made of food-preparing premises—4,606 compared with 1,613 in 1952.

2.—FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

During the year under review 109 samples were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst for examination. The details of these samples are as follows :—

Milk	...	...	...	...	107
Sardines	...	...	...	...	2

The table below gives particulars of the samples found upon analysis to have been adulterated or below standard :—

Sample No.	Sample	Adulteration or Offence	Remarks
3	Milk	Naturally deficient in non-fatty solids to the extent of 2.3%	Formal sample. Producer outside the district.
31	Milk	Do. 2.3%	Formal sample
48	Milk	Deficient in milk fat to the extent of 1.6%	Formal sample. Producer outside the district.
56	Milk	Do. 3.3%	Formal sample. Producer outside the district.
75	Milk	Do. 6.6%	Formal sample.
78	Milk	(Re No. 75). Naturally deficient in milk fat to the extent of 18.3%	"Appeal to Cow" sample. Producer requested to obtain a better type of cow.

4.—MARKETS AND SHOPS

Foodstuffs exposed for sale in the public market and in the various shops in the town were regularly inspected during the year.

4,606 visits were paid to food stores and food preparing premises (including visits to bakehouses, milk shops, etc.), and action was taken to effect improvement at various premises, and it is pleasing to note that in this effort we had the full co-operation of the occupiers and owners of the premises.

FOOD CONDEMNED 1953

		T.	C.	Q.	Lbs.
Tinned Foods	...	...	...	...	23
Beef	...	—	11	2	18½
Pork	...	—	11	3	14½
Tripes and Offal	...	—	2	0	24
Sausage	...	—	1	0	7
Fish	...	—	2	0	14
Bacon	...	—	—	—	25½
Meat Pies	...	—	—	—	21
Dried Fruit	...	—	4	3	18
Cake and Biscuits	...	—	—	2	13
Sweets and Chocolates	...	—	—	—	17½
Coconuts and desiccated coconut	...	3	0	—	26
Cake Mix, Custard Powder, etc.	...	—	1	—	17½
Miscellaneous	...	—	—	3	5½
	TOTAL	4	0	0	21

5.—RAT REPRESSION

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

	TYPE OF PROPERTY					TOTAL
	Local Authority	Dwelling houses	Agricultural	All other (including Business and Industrial)		
1. Total number of properties in Local Authority's district	42	14,675	27	3,326	18,070	
2. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1953, as a result :— (a) of notification, or (b) otherwise	(a) 3 (b) 34	244 2,473	1 15	67 1,010	315 3,532	
3. Number of properties (under No. 2) found to be infested by rats :— Major	—	—	—	—	—	
Minor	2	208	—	34	244	
4. Number of properties (under No. 2) found to be seriously infested by mice	1	99	—	53	153	
5. Number of infested properties (under Nos. 3 and 4) treated by the local authority	3	307	—	84	394	
6. Number of notices served under Section 4 :— (1) Treatment (2) Structural Works (i.e. proofing)	Nil Nil	Nil Nil	Nil Nil	Nil 1	Nil 1	
7. Number of cases in which default action was taken by the Local Authority, following issue of notice under Section 4 ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
8. Legal proceedings ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
9. Number of " Block " control schemes carried out ... ... ...	...	...	...	24		

The two full-time Rodent Operators employed in the Department continued to carry out their duties in a satisfactory manner. During the year the usual baiting of the sewers was

carried out. In addition a large number of premises where rats had been observed, was reported, and the necessary action taken.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES OF ANIMALS

During the year the district was subject to the movement restrictions imposed by the Foot & Mouth (Infected Areas) Order, 1938.

DISINFESTATION

During the year no Council houses but 19 privately owned houses and properties were fumigated. Liquid and powder spraying by both manual and mechanical appliances were employed. Zaldecide and Gammoxene insecticides gave excellent results.

SCABIES

There were no patients treated for Scabies during 1953.

Water Supply

The water supply has been satisfactory in quantity and quality. There has been filtration of all supplies, with Chlorination at the Brushes and Yeoman Hey Filterhouses and Ozonisation at Knott Hill.

During the year, the following examinations were made :—

(a) RAW WATER	Number	Results
Bacteriological examinations	... 5	... Satisfactory
Chemical analyses	... —	...

(b) WATER GOING INTO SUPPLY
WHERE TREATMENT IS
INSTALLED

Bacteriological examinations	... 25	... Excellent
Chemical analyses	... —	...

PRIVATE SUPPLIES

Bacteriological examinations	... —	...
Chemical analyses	... —	...

No form of contamination presented itself.

No liability to Plumbo Solvent action.

Except for a few isolated cases, domestic water supplies are received from the town's mains.

Swimming Baths

The Corporation Baths have the following bathing accommodation :—

1 large Swimming Bath (100ft. x 40ft.—120,000 gals.).

35 Private Slipper Baths (22 Gents' and 13 Ladies').

3 Zotofoam Baths.

The swimming bath water is purified by "Bells" Filtration Plant, having a four-hour turnover.

The pumps extract 15,000 gallons of water from the top and a similar amount from the bottom hourly.

Chlorination is maintained constantly at 0.5 parts/million throughout the bath.

Tests are taken two and three times per day also for alkilinity at 7.0/7.6 Ph. to give perfect filtration.

Warm showers are provided to enable each bather to wash under fresh, clean, running water before entering the swimming bath.

The private slipper baths are fitted with unlimited supplies of hot and cold water.

Zotofoam sweating baths are provided on a modern scale with shampoo and rest rooms. Brine and Pine are also given with these baths.

Zotofoam baths provide the advantages of a Turkish bath without the use of a very hot room, the room being kept at approximately 80 deg. F.

The attendances at the Baths during 1953 were as follows :—

Swimming Baths	...	...	...	70,238
Private Slipper Baths	...	...	...	38,758
Zotofoam Sweating Bath	...	...	...	1,758
Total	...	...	...	110,754

I am indebted to Mr. W. H. Vollum, M.N.A.B.S., the Baths Superintendent, for kindly supplying me with much information and for his co-operation in matters connected with the general arrangements.

Eight samples of water from the Public Baths were taken during the year by officers of the Department and submitted to the Public Health Laboratories for examination.

DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS MADE AND WORK CARRIED OUT DURING 1953

Number of inspections (including housing) made by Sanitary Inspectors	...	...	...	...	...	13,335
Number of nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	2,030
Number of visits to houses-let-in-lodgings, furnished rooms and dwelling-vans	...	...	...	...	...	117
Number of visits to dairies and milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	167
Number of visits to bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	390
Number of visits to food stores and food preparing premises						3,387
Number of visits to fish-friers	...	...	...	...	...	148
Number of visits to ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	514
Number of visits to factories and workshops	...	...	...	...	...	462
Number of visits to offensive trade premises	...	...	...	...	...	10
Number of visits re rat infestations	...	...	...	...	...	12,702
Number of samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act	...	...	...	...	...	109

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

In pursuance of the provisions of the above Act, 2 adults and 1 infant were interred during 1953, the arrangements for the burials being undertaken by the officers of your Committee.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health. Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories with Mechanical Power... ...	91	—	—
Factories without Mechanical Power ...	382	11	—
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)	17	—	—
Total	490	11	—

2. DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of Cleanliness (S. 1) ...	16	16	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2) ...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S. 4)	1	1	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S. 6) ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) { Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or Defective ...	22	21	—	—
Not Separate for Sexes ...	4	6	—	—
Other Offences	1	1	—	—
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937)				
Total	44	45	—	—

